method of recruitment in Central Government;

(b) in the composite method, where a post is filled by deputation on transfer, is the departmental candidate to be afforded an opportunity to be considered for the post at the end of deputation;

(c) when a deputation is extended, is it required to afford opportunity to departmental candidate before first extension or before each new extension; and

(d) whether as per the Department of Personnel & Training guidelines of 18th March, 1988 the term "Prescribed period" means the period of initial deputation or does it include any extension granted to the deputationist?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Whenever a post is required to be filled by the composite method of recruitment, the departmental candidate, if elgible, is to be considered alongwith outsiders. If the departmental candidate is selected for appointment to the post, it is treated as having been filled by promotion; otherwise, the post is to be filled by deputation for the prescribed period at the end of which departmental officer is again afforded an opportunity to be considered for appointment to the post.

(c) The Administrative Ministry/ Department have to ensure that there is no eligible departmental candidate before granting first extension of deputation and also before each new extension.

(d) In the DOP&T guidelines dated 18th March, 1988 the term "Prescribed period" means the period of initial deputation only and does not include any extension granted to the deputationist.

Press Briefing by Secretaries/Ministers

1776. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued a directive/circular to all Minis ters/Departments permitting only the Secretaries/Minister to interact with the Press;

(b) if so, the reasons/background therefor;

(c) whether the practice of Press Brief ing by Principal Information Officer on Government decision/policies has been discontinued, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what efforts Government have made to ensure transparency in gover nance and right to information for gener al public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KANDAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Instances of non-observance of the provisions of Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, relating to contact with the Press and airing of view on official matters through Press by Government Servants had come to the notice of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) With the view to introducing greater transparency and openness in functioning of Government and public bodies, the Government have constituted a working Group on 'Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government' under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie. The working Group submitted its report to the Government on 21st May, 97 recommending inter-alia the enanctment of 'Freedom of Information Act' by the Parliament. The recom-

mendation is in advance stage of consideeration. Simultaneously, steps are being taken to make the Administration more open and transparent even within the existing statutory/administrative frame work. Necessary instructions in this regard have accordingly been issued to all Ministries/Departments. The Ministeries/ Departments with a public interface in Delhi have also been asked to set up Information and Facilitation Counters.

Revision of Pay Scales of CSS and DANICS Section Officers

1777. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status regarding revision of (i) pay scales of the Section Officers belonging to the CSS and DANICS and

(ii) The Desk Officer Allowance for the Desk Officers in the CSS;

(b) since when these matters are under consiueration of Govenment and what are the reasons for delay in their finalisation;

(c) by when these issue will settled; and

(d) the date from which the revised Desk Officer Allowance would be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GREIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR MR. JANARTHANAN): (a) The matter relating to grant of higher pay scales to DANICS and DANIPS officers and grant of Desk Officer Allowance to CSS officers is under 4he consideration of Government.

(b) the report of the Fifth Central Pay Commission was submitted to the Government on 30th January, 1997 and thereafter all recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission are being processed in due course. Keeping in view the complexities involved in this case, an immediate decision was not feasible.

(c) and (d) These issues are under consideration of the Government but an indication of the time likely to be taken in deciding them does not seem feasible.

Investigation of Cases by CBI

1778. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases investigated by CBI during last five years; and

(b) the number in cases in which prosecution was launched and the number of cases in which prosecution resulted in conviction of the accused person and the number of cases in which trial is still pending, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GREIVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) A Statement is enclosed below.